

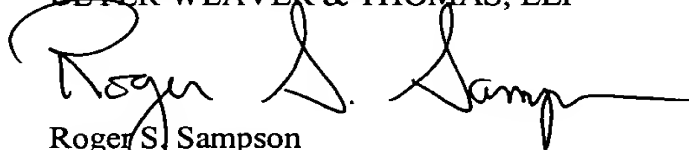
REMARKS

Claims 16-44 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-15 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and new claims 20-44 have been added in order to more clearly claim the invention. Amendments to the specification and drawings have been proposed that correspond to amendments made in application number 09/480,334, which was filed with the same specification and drawings as the present application. The foregoing amendments and new claims are supported by the application as filed and no new matter has been added.

Application number 09/480,334 was filed with method claims instead of apparatus claims. The new and amended claims of this application correspond to the allowed claims of application number 09/480,334. For example, independent apparatus claims 16, 25 and 37 of the present application correspond with independent method claims 16, 25 and 38 in application number 09/480,334. Because corresponding method claims were allowed in application number 09/480,334, it is respectfully submitted that the apparatus claims of the present application should also be allowed. The arguments asserted in application number 09/480,334 are hereby incorporated by reference.

Consideration of this application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution, please do not hesitate to telephone the undersigned at (510) 495-3201.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger S. Sampson", is written over the printed name.

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